

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for utilizing audible, visual and textual data with alternative combinable multimedia forms of presenting information to provide real-time interactive knowledge management in support of activities conducted simultaneously by multiple users in different remote locations, comprising receiving, accessing, processing, storing, retrieving, transmitting and utilizing said data to provide said knowledge management over a distributed network of computers, further comprising:

- (a) library science means for categorizing the information used in said knowledge management;
- (b) linguistics means for defining information acquisition, exchange and workflow to permit said categorization;
- (c) database means for storing said managed information according to a schema which implements said categorization;
- (d) media production means for representing said managed information in multimedia audible, visual and textual digital forms; and
- (e) computer software means for implementing said system over a computer network to permit interactive, multidirectional, multimedia digital data communications originated by a user from at least one first location and made available to at least one second location.

2. A method of using a system for utilizing audible, visual and textual data with alternative combinable multimedia forms of presenting information to provide real-time interactive knowledge management in support of activities conducted simultaneously by multiple users in different remote locations, comprising receiving, accessing, processing, storing, retrieving, transmitting and utilizing said data to provide said knowledge management over a distributed network of computers, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) categorizing the information used in said knowledge management utilizing library science techniques;
- (b) defining information acquisition, exchange and workflow to permit said categorization utilizing linguistics techniques;

- (c) storing said managed information in a database according to a schema which implements said categorization;
- (d) representing said managed information in multimedia audible, visual and textual digital forms utilizing media production methods; and
- (e) implementing said system over a computer network using computer software which permits interactive, multidirectional, multimedia digital data communications originated by a user from at least one first location and made available to at least one second location.

3. The system of Claim 1 or 2 wherein said database schema provides multiple levels of restricted access to said managed information.

4. The system of Claim 3 wherein at least some of said managed information is included within at least one category each having at least one subcategory implementing said database schema such that said category includes all of the information included in each subcategory associated with said category.

5. The system of Claim 4 wherein the information in each category or subcategory is retrievable independent of the information in any other category or subcategory.

6. The system of Claim 5 wherein information containing a common characteristic is retrievable from at least two different categories or subcategories.

7. The system of Claim 1 or 2 wherein a single item of managed information is stored in at least two different locations of said database when said information has been altered from its original form such that each different form of said item is stored in a different location.

8. The system of Claim 7 wherein a single item of managed information is referred to by more than one designation such that each said designation enables a reference to at least one other designation for that item.

9. The system of Claim 6 wherein the user accesses said categories or subcategories of information from an internet web page having access through a web server to said database.

10. The system of Claim 9 wherein said web page contains a user executable feature for providing access to the most common or most recent information used within a category or subcategory.

11. The system of Claim 9 wherein said web page contains user executable features for retrieval and processing of said data for presentation in each form in which said data is used.

12. The system of Claim 9 wherein said web page contains a user executable feature for storing the information most commonly used by said user according to a categorization established by said user.

13. The system of Claim 9 wherein said web page contains user executable features for selection of an audible, visual and/or textual broadcast of a designated item of managed information according to a selected multimedia format.

14. The system of Claim 13 wherein said designated item is combinable with other items of managed information for presentation in at least one broadcast.

15. The system of Claim 13 wherein said item is presented in a combination of audible, visual and/or textual multimedia forms in said broadcast.

16. The system of Claim 14 wherein said items are combinable into different audible, visual and/or textual multimedia forms in said broadcast.

17. The system of Claim 9 wherein said web page contains a user executable feature for searching each category or subcategory for a designated item of managed information.

18. The system of Claim 17 wherein said search is conducted by a match of data contained within said item.

19. The system of Claim 17 wherein said search is conducted by a match of identification information for said item.

20. The system of Claim 17 wherein said search is conducted by a match of classification information for said item.

21. The system of Claim 17 wherein the search accommodates inaccuracies created by the search request or digitization of said item.

22. The system of Claim 1 or 2 further comprising automated agent means for processing each item of managed information to automatically highlight information of interest in said item based upon criteria pre-defined by the user.

23. The system of Claim 1 or 2 further comprising comparison means for analyzing selected portions of different items of managed information to highlight the differences between said portions.

24. The system of Claim 1 or 2 further comprising document set means for dividing all managed information into different groups of individual items of said information that are to be shared among selected users, wherein said users may collaborate amongst each other in using said shared information.

25. The system of Claim 24 wherein each individual item of said shared information is accessible independently of the other said items and wherein different groups of said items can be merged together to contain all items in each merged group or combined into a new group containing all items in common between said groups.

26. The system of Claim 24 wherein new content may be associated with each item of managed information within a group.

27. The system of Claim 20 wherein document coding means permits said classification information to be combined with user-customized personal information in classifying said item.

28. The system of claim 1 or 2 wherein multiple users access an item of information simultaneously or sequentially.

29. The system of claim 7 further comprising an automated comparison agent that tracks the alterations between two or more of said stored items.

30. The system of claim 7 wherein said information has been altered by handwriting, highlighting, or text changes.

31. The system of claim 29 wherein said automated comparison agent generates a report identifying said alterations, wherein said report is displayed in a format specified by the user.

32. The system of claim 1 or 2 further comprising an automated agent for processing an item of managed information and extracting information about said item based upon criteria pre-defined by the user.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein said extraction agent generates a report identifying said information in a format selected by the user.

34. The system of claim 1 or 2 further comprising a reminder agent that tracks the time a user or group of users has spent on an item or group of items and automatically generates a message to said user or user group at user selected intervals.